

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 281738Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4422

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25060

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR VN US

SUBJECT: U.S. RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

REF: A) STATE 177234; B) PARIS 21018

1. VIETNAMESE FIRST SECRETARY, DO THANH, ACCOMPANIED BY SECOND SECRETARY, LE NGOC LUAN, CAME TO THE EMBASSY AT 1600 LOCAL AUGUST 28 TO DELIVER THE SRV FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NOTE IN ANSWER TO OUR NOTE OF JULY 19 (REF A). SRV NOTE IS NOT DATED, BUT DO THANH SAID WE CAN CONSIDER THE DATE TO BE AUGUST 28, THE DATE OF THE SRV EMBASSY COVERING NOTE. DO THANH SAID THAT THE ONLY TEXT RECEIVED WAS THE VIETNAMESE TEXT; HENCE THE SRV EMBASSY PREPARED A QTE NON-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION ENDQTE INTO FRENCH, PARA 2. WE HAVE PREPARED OUR INFORMAL TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH, PARA 3. THE ORIGINAL VIETNAMESE VERSION IS BEING POUCHED TO EA/VLC. DO THANH'S ORAL COMMENTS ABOUT SUBSEQUENT STEPS ARE COVERED IN PARAS 4 AND 5.

2. TRADUCTION NON-OFFICIELLE. LE MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES DE LA REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE DU VIETNAM A L'HONNEUR D'ACCUSER RECEPTION DE LA NOTE EN DATE DU 19 JUILLET 1976 DU DEPARTEMENT D'ETAT DES ETATS-UNIS AMERIQUE.

LE GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE DU VIETNAM A, EN MAINTES OCCASIONS, EXPRIME SON POINT DE
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VUE SUR L'ACCORD DE PARIS AT AUR LA NORMALIZATION DES

RELATIONS ENTRE LE VIETNAM ET LES ETATS-UNIS. CE POINT DE VUE A ETE AUSSI REAFFIRME DANS LA NOTE DU 19 JUIN 1976 ADRESSEE AUX ETATS-UNIS.

EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES RENCONTRES ENTRE LES REPRESENTANTS DES DEUX PARTIES A PARIS, LA REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE DU VIETNAM SUGGERE COMME SUIV: LE CONSEILLER DE L'AMBASSADE DU VIETNAM A PARIS SERA LE REPRESENTANT DE LA REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE DU VIETNAM; LES RENCONTRES AURONT LIEU EN DEHORS DE LA CHANCELLERIE DE CHAQUE PARTIE ET SERONT ALTERNATIVEMENT ARRANGÉES PAR LES DEUX PARTIES.

SI LA PARTIE AMERICAINE EST DU MEME AVIS, LES OFFICIERS DE LIAISON DES DEUX PARTIES POURRONT SE RENCONTRER EN VUE DES DISCUSSIONS SUR LA DATE ET LE LIEU DE LA PREMIERE RENCONTRE.

3. EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH INTO ENGLISH: QTE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM HAS THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE NOTE DATED 19 JULY 1976 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, HAS, ON MANY OCCASIONS, EXPRESSED ITS POINT OF VIEW ON THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND ON THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS POINT OF VIEW HAS ALSO BEEN REAFFIRMED IN THE 19 JUNE 1976 NOTE ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED STATES.

CONCERNING THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO PARTIES IN PARIS, THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SUGGESTS AS FOLLOWS: THE COUNSELLOR OF THE EMBASSY OF VIETNAM IN PARIS WILL BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM; THE MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE THE CHANCERIES OF EACH PARTY AND WILL BE ALTERNATELY ARRANGED BY THE TWO PARTIES.

IF THE AMERICAN PARTY AGREES, THE LIAISON OFFICERS OF THE TWO PARTIES CAN MEET WITH A VIEW TO DISCUSSIONS OF THE DATE AND PLACE FOR THE FIRST MEETING.

4. DO THANH SAID THAT THE SRV REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE COUNSELLOR TRAN HOAN, WHO AS NUMBER TWO MAN IN THEIR SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4423

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 25060

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MISSION IS THE COUNTEHPART OF MINISTER GAMMON. AS FOR THE SITES, THE SRV BELIEVES WE SHOULD HAVE CONVENIENT, CENTRAL LOCATIONS, NOT THE SUBURBS. FOR ITS PART, THE SRV IS THINKING IN TERMS OF ONE OF THE BUILDINGS, OTHER THAN THE CHANCERY, WHICH IT OWNS; DO THANH MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY AS A POSSIBILITY THE BUILDING ON AVENUE MADRID IN NEUILLY WHICH HAD FOR A TIME BEEN THE PRG HEADQUARTERS. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER THE SRV WOULD ACCEPT, AS SITE PROPOSED BY OUR SIDE, A RESIDENCE, SUCH AS THAT OF THE MINISTER; DO THANH TOOK NOTE AND SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

5. DO THANH SAID THAT WE COULD NOT MOVE FORWARD IN DISCUSSING PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL AFTER WASHINGTON HAD AGREED TO THE GENERAL PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN THE NOTE, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO BASIC PROBLEMS. HE THOUGHT WE COULD EASILY WORK OUT WHETHER WE SHOULD USE VIETNAMESE AND ENGLISH AS LANGUAGES FOR THE TALKS (DO THANH SAID THEY COULD PROVIDE VIETNAMESE/ ENGLISH INTERPRETERS) OR WHETHER BOTH SIDES WOULD USE FRENCH. HE THOUGHT WE SOULD SUPPLEMENT THE TALKS WITH MORE SPECIFIC QTE AIDES MEMOIRE ENDQTE OR QTE BOUTS DE PAPIER ENDQTE REFLECTING VIEWS FROM THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS WHEN THERE WERE THORNY QUESTIONS REQUIRING PRECISE QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS. DO THANH ASKED ABOUT HOW MANY PERSONS MIGHT PARTICIPATE ON OUR SIDE; HE THOUGHT THAT, DEPENDING ON THE LANGUAGE USED THERE WOULD BE ABOUT FOUR ON THE SRV SIDE. EMBOFF SAID WE DID
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NOT HAVE PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT, BUT THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD NOT BE NUMEROUS. AS FOR PRESS RELATIONS, THE SRV CONTINUES TO HAVE AS BASIC PRINCIPLE THAT ALL RELEASES TO THE PRESS SHOULD BE AFTER MUTUAL AGREEMENT. WE COULD HAVE GENERAL COMMUNIQUE BEFORE THE FIRST MEETING SAYING THAT TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE, OR SOME ANNOUNCEMENT OR COMMUNIQUE AFTER THE FIRST MEETING. A THIRD ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE COMPLETE SILENCE CONCERNING THE INITIAL CONTACTS. THE QTE LIAISON OFFICERS ENDQTE COULD DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WHEN THEY DISCUSSED THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE FIRST MEETING.

6. DO THANH SAID THAT LE NGOC LUAN HAD RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM HANOI WHERE HE HAD BEEN WORKING ON QTE WESTERN COUNTRIES ENDQTE. HE WAS THEREFORE UP ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND WOULD BE ONE OF THE SRV PARTICIPANTS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON LUAN AS WELL AS TRAN HOAN.
GAMMON

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